

**REVENGE IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *HAMLET*:
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



RESEARCH PROPOSAL

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by:

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Being hurt sometimes makes people feel lonely. In this situation people will do anything to make them feel happy. Moreover when the hurt comes because of someone that they love took by other. It is just sadness that always appears in their mind because of it. There is nothing to do to make them happy to loose the sadness besides take revenge to the people who makes them hurt. Revenge will become the latest way, when people believe that it is the better way to make their rival down. They will do anything whether it is good or bad for them, they do not care about it. The important thing is they feel satisfied when they see their rival's life ruined because of it.

Take revenge sometimes can be the best way for people who cannot restrain the sadness. When they have a purpose to take revenge, they will make many plans to do it. They do not care whether it is right or wrong, although there are many conflicts appear in their personality but they just think that what they do can change their personality, for example, their habit, attitude, and behavior. It will also make the situation become complicated and caused anxiety inside of the personality.

According to Freud (in Pervin, 1984: 80) anxiety is an emotion, experience, representing a threat or danger to the organism. In other word, it represents painful feelings that act as a signal of impending danger, so that it can

act. Freud also states that at some point the organism experience a trauma, an accident of considerable harm and also injury.

Having the feeling of anxiety motivates person to do something to free the external danger, to inhibit the instinctual impulse, or to obey the voice of conscience (Hall and Lindzey, 1985: 42). It has purpose that they can feel safely or more calmly in facing the realities that make them feel anxious. The circumstances of life inevitably place the personality under strain, even though they have many resources for coping with their problem. Their motives are not easily satisfied because they must think again what way they have to choose to solve their problem. Furthermore, the way that they use to reduce their anxiety is only for a while. So, later they have to face their own problem. The way that helps people to reduce the tension is called defense mechanism.

Defense mechanism is mental process that has goal to reduce the anxiety and that shares two particular characteristics: they operate unconsciously and distort reality (Hall and Lindzey, 1985:45). In other word, the use of ego defense mechanism can give the feeling of safety from being anxious. Freud (in Hjelle and Ziegler, 1976: 38) said that defense mechanism is a strategy used by the individual to defend against open expression of *id* impulses and posing super ego pressure. Here, the researcher wants to explore the anxiety and the ego defense mechanism on the major character's personality that shows in *Hamlet*, a play, written by William Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* is an example of the people's anxiety. The main character on this play has a big anxiety when he has his own desire to

take revenge of his father death. The anxiety appears when he realizes that the death of his father is unusual. He really wants to know the way his father death. He also wants to take revenge to someone who had killed his father, but there are many conflicts that appear in his personality that finally makes him anxious. His uncle who now becomes his father in fact is the person who had killed his father, King Hamlet. He was really shocked and he promised to himself and to his father's death body that he will take revenge to him and absolutely he wants to kill him anyway. He tries to look for the way in order he can kill Claudius, until Hamlet get depression because his mother Queen Gertrude does not give permission, and he always remember that he has to take revenge for his father death, sooner or later. Knowing his problem Hamlet tries to build many ways to kill Claudius until Claudius knows that he is in danger. Then Claudius arranges some plans to send Hamlet out from Denmark, so that he can safe from Hamlet.

Hamlet uses some ego defense mechanism to reduce his anxiety, unfortunately his anxious is still occur in his personality. His anxiety appears when his father's ghost always forces him to kill Claudius. Hamlet really wants to do it but he feels anxious if his mother will be sad again. He also feels anxious if his plans knowing by others then they can put Hamlet to the prison. So, to reduce his anxiety that always appears in his personality, he uses some ego defense mechanism. Most of William Shakespeare's works show the psychological development of the characters, not only the major character but also the minor character.

William Shakespeare is the greatest playwright in England. His birth is unregistered, but legend places it on April 23, 1564, partially because April 23 is the day on which he died 52 years later. He attended the local grammar school, the King's New School that was staffed with a faculty which held Oxford Degrees. He did not attend the university, which was not usual at this time since university education was reserved for prospective clergymen and was not a particular mind – opening experience. His early works especially drew on such Greek and Roman greats as Seneca and Plautus. *Hamlet* was written in 1604, when the themes of jealousy and sadness created in this era. The other's William Shakespeare's works are *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Julius Caesar*.

In the play of *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare performs Hamlet as the prince of Denmark who has an occupation but do not have an authority to do more than a King. Hamlet is just the prince of Denmark which the authority is handled by the king, he is Claudius. After King Hamlet, Hamlet's father died, Claudius changes the position including make the Queen becomes his wife. Hamlet feels very angry but he can do nothing. He just can wait and see what will happen next with him and his mother's life. But one thing that always makes him survive that he wants to know more about the way his father's death. For the first time, Hamlet feels something mistake with the death of his father. He asks the Queen Gertrude and Claudius about it but their answer are always the same. King Hamlet was died because of heart attack. Until someday he meets his father's ghost in the Kingdom and tells him that King Hamlet was poisoned by someone, he is Claudius. Hamlet

gets angry and he promises to kill Claudius as the take revenge of his father. But later Hamlet feels anxious when he realizes that his mother becomes Claudius' wife and Hamlet does not want to hurt his mother by killing Claudius.

Considering the above explanatory ideas, the researcher turns to analyze the novel by using psychoanalytic approach because of some considerations. The first reason is that Hamlet's personality is the mirror of human being. He has the feeling of anxiety and confusion when he meets something. The second one is that the play has great possibility to know the phenomenon of psychological problems in the character. In this study the researcher encourages herself to give a title: **REVENGE IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *HAMLET*: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

As long as the researcher knows, there has been other researcher who did a research about the play, namely Rahmad Hidayanto. The title to his research is Sociopragmatic analysis on the summons and speech interruption expression in *Hamlet*. In his research he focused on the form of speech that William Shakespeare uses in his works of *Hamlet*.

In this occasion, the researcher tries to conduct the research paper on the revenge that appears in major character personality including anxiety and the ego defense mechanism, which appears by using psychoanalytic perspective.

C. Problem Statement

The major problem of the study is "how is revenge reflected in Hamlet's personality?"

C. Limitation of the Study

This study is limited to the anxiety that appears in Hamlet's personality because the problem arises and ego defense mechanism that he uses on facing the anxiety that appears in his personality. This study uses A Psychoanalytic Approach.

D. Objective of the Study

Dealing with the statement above, the objectives of the studies are:

1. Analyzing the play based on its structural elements
2. Analyzing the play based on the psychoanalytic approach

E. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the studies are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research paper has some benefits, which are to give additional contributions to literature researches dealing with William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

2. Practical Benefit

This research paper has a practical benefit, which is to give deeper understanding about the content of the play, especially from the psychological aspect.

F. Research Method

1. Type of the Research

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method. Here the researcher tries to relate the discussion of analysis based on the underlying theory.

2. Objects of the Research

The researcher takes William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, which contains the series of drama description. Here, the researcher tries to analyze the anxieties and the ego defense mechanisms that appear in the major character's personality.

3. Data Source

There are two types of data sources, namely:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the scripts play itself, *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare and the movie version produced by Lug Roeg and David Barron in 1995, directed by Oliver Parker.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source includes books and other data that have relationship with the research, such as commentaries and other relevant information.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The methods of collecting data in this research are as follows:

1. Reading the drama script repeatedly
2. Taking note of the important part in both primary and secondary data
3. Identifying the topic of the play
4. Analyzing the data of the research based on Sigmund Freud's theory

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of Data Analysis in this study is descriptive and hermeneutic. Description means that the researcher interprets the text and content relating to the psychological condition of the major character, while hermeneutic interprets the script to find out the intension of the playwright.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research consists of five chapters. The first chapter is introduction involving background, literature review, problem statement, and research limitation, objective of the study, research method, and research paper organization. The second chapter deals with the underlying theory. It deals with the basic concepts of individual psychological theory and theoretical application. The third chapter is structural analysis. In this chapter the researcher explains the structural elements of the novel. The forth is the discussion about the major characters problem based on individual psychological theory. And the last chapter is conclusion and suggestion of the research.